

**Gospel of Matthew “What God has joined together”
Matthew 19:1-12
October 22nd, 2023**

Matthew 19:1–2 ESV

Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

Matthew 19:3 ESV

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?”

R. Kent Hughes quote

“Blind men came with deaf and a dumb question.”

The Pharisees come to “test” Jesus.

Matthew 4:1 ESV

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Marriage starts with God

Tim Keller quote-

“In a wedding, you are not so much declaring your present love, though of course that’s the reason for it. In a wedding, you are promising future love. You’re not just saying, “I feel tender to you now.” In a wedding, in a covenant, you’re saying nothing about your feelings at the present. In a covenant, you are saying, “I promise to be tender, to be affectionate, to be faithful, to be serving from now on regardless of your condition or mine.” That’s what a covenant is.”

Matthew 6:12 ESV

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Marriage is a covenant with one another and with God I am you

Ephesians 5:22–33 ESV

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Marriage displays the relationship that Jesus has with his church

Matthew 19:7–8 ESV

They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning, it was not so.

Matthew 19:10–12 ESV

The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” But he said to them, “Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.”

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What Did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday morning Gathering?
- 2.) Allow group members to share about a marriage they respect or admire. Spend some time talking about why they admire this marriage. Are there any common themes?
- 3.) In verses 1-2, where was Jesus heading? Why was Jesus heading in this direction?
- 4.) Why did the Pharisees ask about divorce? How is it similar to Satan's questions to Jesus in Matthew 4?
- 5.) Why is it important to recognize marriage originated in the Heart of God?
- 6.) What is significant about the covenant relationship that takes place in marriage?
- 7.) According to Ephesians 5, what does marriage give us a portrait of?
- 8.) According to the Bible, why is divorce painful? How might it damage one's soul?
- 9.) How might the gospel encourage someone who has experienced the pain of divorce? How does Jesus work on the cross to bring hope to anyone impacted by divorce?
- 10.) How can we have soft hearts towards those who've experienced the pain of divorce?
- 11.) How does Jesus tell someone to live their lives if they are single?
- 12.) How does knowing God desires to be one with you comfort you? How does it inform you on the way you should live your life?
- 13.) How can your Grow Group help you live out the truths of this passage?

Prayer: "Jesus restore my union with you"